

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor
Debbie Field
Administrator



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State of Idaho
Office of Drug Policy
Executive Office of the Governor

January 30, 2011

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Governor Otter:

The Interagency Committee on Substance Abuse, Prevention and Treatment, met on Wednesday, January 26, 2011. As part of the agenda, we discussed HB19, the Medical Marijuana Act, sponsored by Representative Tom Trail.

After discussion, a motion was made that a letter be sent to you and the germane committee chairs expressing our opposition to HB19. The smoking of marijuana for medicinal applications is a volatile and a difficult issue for both the medical and regulatory communities. Several examinations of the issue have consistently drawn question to the validity of smoking an impure substance while voicing concern for the well being of patients in need.

Individuals and law enforcement officials around the state have expressed extreme concern over the passage of HB19. In Federal Law, the Criteria for placement of this drug in Schedule I is its high potential for abuse; and has no accepted medical use in treatment in the United States or lacks accepted safety for use in treatment under medical supervision. Leading experts agree, although marijuana smoke delivers THC and other cannabinoids to the body, it also delivers harmful substances, including most of those found in tobacco smoke. Idaho does not want to be part of this slippery slope.

Once again, the Interagency Committee on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment opposes HB19 and encourages committee members to hold HB19 in committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Field".

Debbie Field, Administrator
Idaho Office of Drug Policy

Cc: Senator Patti Anne Lodge
Representative Janice McGeachin

*Note: The Judiciary and County Commissioner Angenie McCleary abstained from voting on the motion.